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Fifty-first session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 71 (h)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Banladesh, Belgium, Benin, Czech Republic, El Salvador,
Germany, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Portugal, Spain,
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zaire: revised
draft resolution

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of
15 December 1994 and 50/70 L of 12 December 1995,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting
regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in
the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security
in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or
subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of
States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability
and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security
at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in
different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations

among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States, and States with larger military capabilities, have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. Decides to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, as a first step, to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".
